

Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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April 19, 2005

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CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON CALLS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO DO MORE TO FIGHT RIGHT-WING DOMESTIC TERRORISTS

April 19, 2005, Washington, DC — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and other House Democratic Members, held a teleconference today to address the Department of Homeland Security's failure to better target domestic terrorist groups on the 10-year anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. During the call, Congressman Thompson raised concerns about the Department's failure to reassess the threat posed by right-wing domestic terrorists. He stressed the need for the Department to revise its long-term planning to address this risk.

Congressman Thompson stated, "As the Department of Homeland Security implements a plan to focus on risk as a means of allocating scarce anti-terrorism resources, it must consider the threat that right-wing domestic terrorists pose to critical infrastructure and America. It must re-define what it considers to be critical infrastructure by re-evaluating the risk that right-wing domestic terrorist's pose to schools, large churches, or other public places. Better coordination and sharing of information between the FBI and DHS may be necessary in order to evaluate these risks."